

H1N1 Vaccine

November 2009: This document has been updated in accordance with CDC recommendations for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that certain groups of the population receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine when it first becomes available. These target groups include:

- Pregnant women
- Household and caregiver contacts of children younger than 6 months of age (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers)
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel,
- Persons from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Person aged 25 through 64 years who have medical conditions associated with a higher risk of influenza complications.

Once providers meet the demand for vaccine among persons in these initial target groups, vaccination is recommended for all persons 25 through 64 years of age. Current studies indicate the risk for infection among persons age 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. However, once vaccine demand among younger age groups has been met programs and providers should offer vaccination to people 65 or older.

H1N1 vaccines for DDS consumers will be obtained through their community-based physicians/practitioners, and will be administered in the priority order established by the CDC. Public and private service providers should clarify with consumers' community based physicians/practitioners whether or not an individual is considered a member of one of the priority groups noted above

Public and Private Service Providers should:

- a. Identify their consumers who fall into the vaccination priority groups
- b. Contact the consumers' community based physicians/practitioners to ensure they have registered as a participating provider with DPH to receive and administer the vaccine.
- c. Inform the physicians/practitioners of the number of consumers needing vaccination once it becomes available.
- d. If the community based physician/practitioner is not expected to receive and administer vaccine the local public health department should be contacted to obtain information on alternate sources for the vaccine.

At this time we have not been notified by the Department of Public Health that direct staff care in the public and private sectors are included in the priority category of healthcare workers. physicians/practitioners to obtain the vaccine.

Information on flu prevention, surveillance, and treatment is available on the CDC and DPH websites: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu & www.ct.gov/dph. As is the current practice, all questions or concerns related to an individual's health care should be directed to the primary care physician/practitioner.

DDS appreciates your attention to this matter and if you have any additional questions, please contact your Regional staff. Remember, it is important to monitor the DDS Website, DPH Website and the CDC Website on a daily basis.